

January 9, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of Barrington Hills, I am concerned about the adverse effects that will result from the proposal by Canadian National Railroad (CN) to increase rail traffic through the Barrington area. My specific comments are related to traffic congestion, public safety concerns and economic impacts to downtown Barrington.

**Traffic Congestion and Public Safety Concerns**

My family lives near Cuba Road and Route 14. The three major egress routes from our home are Cuba Road, Route 14 and Lake Cook Road; all three of which will be affected by increased CN rail traffic. Other affected roads we frequent include Ela, Hough Street and Rand Road. Additionally, my husband travels on Cuba during his daily commute to work. CN's proposal will directly impact my family's driving patterns and increase our travel time.

It is my understanding that CN's application neglects to identify the true long-term traffic impacts to the greater Barrington Area. Specifically, the application only accounted for changes in its container traffic through 2006 but ignored the additional container traffic from Port of Prince Rupert, which only opened in 2007. CN's application also ignored rail traffic of the other four mega-railroads CN plans to admit to the EJ&E line. Finally, CN's projections are limited to increases over the next three years but ignore the future growth in overall rail traffic in the Chicago area (projected to increase by 80% in the next 20 years).

Clearly, the *true* traffic impacts to the Barrington Area resulting from CN's proposed and future usage must be scrutinized. Increases in container traffic, train length, the number of trains per day, and "wait time" at crossing must be considered and include *realistic* long-term projections. Public safety concerns arise from the increased traffic congestion and potential gridlock. My family is very concerned about emergency response times during situations where the rail crossings at the arterial roads are simultaneously blocked by a passing freight train.

**Economic Impacts to Downtown Barrington**

Given the layout of the Barrington roads and the fact that a single average-length freight train could block all four central Village of Barrington rail crossings at one time, it is likely that my driving habits would change to avoid the congestion and potential gridlock. Certain destinations such as church and the library will necessitate trips to downtown Barrington but other activities would likely be done elsewhere. Instead of traveling to downtown Barrington for grocery shopping, dining, banking, dry-cleaning, movie rentals, etc., I would travel west down Route 14 to neighboring communities and avoid downtown Barrington. As a direct consequence, the majority of the money my family currently spends in downtown Barrington would be spent elsewhere.

Sincerely,



Margaret Karolyi  
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Barrington Hills, IL 60010

We have been enjoying the quiet, peaceful beauty of Barrington Hills for 15 years. Our property, as many others, runs along the EJ&E tracks servicing 2 or 3 short freights per day. The impact of much more heavy freight would be devastating to us & the entire community for the following reasons:

Decrease in land value due to:

Excess noise

Air Pollution

Delayed Emergency Response Time

Danger of Hazardous Materials transported through many residential neighborhoods & schools

Economic impact on entire community:

Barrington is surrounded by railroad tracks servicing freight & commuters. This causes delays as it is—large increases in train traffic would cause devastating gridlock.

Commuters & students would suffer great inconvenience traveling to jobs & schools, not to mention the waste of gasoline waiting for trains to pass. What about emergency vehicles? The retail & service businesses in and around Barrington would be compromised by the public finding easier venues to travel.

These are very significant concerns & we request that they be considered with the urgency in which they are presented. Thank You.